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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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17 MAR 1961

BOROUGH OF WELSHPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR 1959

WELSHPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL, 1959

MAYOR :

Councillor C. S. Thomas.

MEMBERS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959 :

Aldermen W. C. Ainge, T. Gittins, W. R. Humphreys, W. Richards; Councillors S. H. Bagshaw, H. Blockley, R. Cowey,, J. H. Emberton, G. C. E. Jones, J. H. Lloyd, A. F. Mapp, E. J. Rushgrove, R. P. Turner, W. H. Watson, W. P. Whittall.

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Alderman W. Richards.

TOWN CLERK :

J. Ben Davies, M.B.E.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Elinor M. Greville, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(appointed May, 1960)

ADDRESS OF MEDICAL OFFICER :

Welshpool Borough Council Offices, Broad Street, Welshpool

TELEPHONE NUMBER OF MEDICAL OFFICER :

Welshpool 3142/3183.

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR :

F. A. Lodge, A.R.I.C.S., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Welshpool Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors.

I have pleasure in submitting a Report on the Public Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Area during 1959.

I commenced duties as your Medical Officer in May, 1960, and I am therefore necessarily dependant on others for any information which appears in this report. In these circumstances you will not expect me to write at length on the conditions as they existed in 1959.

Nevertheless, I would refer, briefly, to the vesting of the local water undertaking in the newly formed Montgomeryshire Water Board. This, of course, deprives the Welshpool Borough Council of one of its most important functions, but this step has been taken as the result of a direction by the Minister of Health, and, as such, it is to be hoped that it will ultimately benefit the Borough.

It will be noted from the report that the total number of applications for council houses, at the end of the year, under review was 395. I would express the hope that the Council will find it possible to add to the considerable number of houses already provided by them.

I would like to thank the Public Health Inspector for his assistance in the preparation of the part of this report relating to the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ELINOR M. GREVILLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

1. Area of the District—20,427 Acres.
2. Estimated Mid-Year Population—6,100.
3. Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book)
—2,008.
4. Rateable Value at 31st March, 1959—£62,927.
5. Sum represented by Penny Rate—£234.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population: This has increased by 20 since 1958.

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	52
	Female	...	...	...	...	49
Illegitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	1
	Female	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	101

77 further births (45 males and 32 females) took place in the Borough but were registered in other districts.

Illegitimacy Rate: 3.96% of all live births.

Crude Birth Rate: 16.56 per 1,000 total population.

Crude Birth Rate:

Montgomeryshire 1959: 15.6 per 1,000 population.

Crude Birth Rate in England and Wales: 16.5 per 1,000 population (provisional).

Welshpool Birth Rate (corrected for Age and Sex Distribution, 1959): 15.89 per 1,000 population.

Welshpool Birth Rate (corrected) in 1958 was: 17.84 per 1,000 population.

It is noticeable that there has been a fall in the Birth Rate since 1958. A fall in the Montgomeryshire Birth Rate is also recorded.

England and Wales Birth Rate (provisional): 16.5 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS. Total: 3.

Stillbirth Rate: 28.8 per 1,000 live and still births.

Total Live and Still Births: 104.

Montgomeryshire Still Birth Rate: 27.8 per 1,000 births (live and still).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

There were no Infant Deaths in the Borough in 1959, and the respective Mortality Rates for Montgomeryshire and the Country as a whole are the lowest ever recorded.

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week expressed per 1,000 live and still births).

Welshpool Perinatal Mortality: 28.9 per 1,000 total live and still births.

This Mortality was caused by 3 still births.

Wales: Perinatal Mortality Rate: 42 per 1,000 live and still births (Highest in the Country).

Maternal Deaths and Maternal Mortality—Nil.

DEATHS

All Causes: Male	...	...	...	...	50
Female	...	...	...	...	30
Total	...	...	...	...	80

Average Age at Death: 70.9 years.

Crude Death Rate: 13.11 per 1,000 population.

Montgomeryshire Crude Death Rate 1959: 13.04 per 1,000 of estimated population): **13.64** per 1,000 population.

Welshpool Death Rate (after correction for age and sex distribution): **13.64** per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate (provisional): 11.6 per 1,000 of population.

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND CAUSE DURING 1959

CAUSE	Sex	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	Total
		yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	M F
Malignant Neoplasm	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Stomach	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	F	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	6
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	—	—	—	2	—	2	5	3	—	7
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	12
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	4	4	3	—	1	12
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	4
Other Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	1
Other Circulatory Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	5
Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	4
	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
All Other Accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	M	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	M	1	1	1	3	8	11	11	11	3	50
	F	1	—	—	2	1	3	10	13	—	30
GRAND TOTALS		2	1	1	5	9	14	21	24	3	80

The **majority of deaths** occurred in the **80—90 years** age group and were chiefly caused by:

a. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

b. Other Heart Diseases.

Deaths from **Coronary Heart Disease and Angina** were seen to occur predominantly in the **50—70 years** age group.

Almost **50%** of deaths of **males** were **due to Coronary Heart Disease and Angina**, and **Vascular Lesions** of the **Central Nervous System**.

Other Heart Diseases and Vascular Disease of the Nervous System accounted for **50%** of the deaths amongst females.

Deaths from **Coronary Heart Disease** in **1959** increased throughout the Country.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Year	Popu- lation	Live Birth Rate		Still Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality		Perinatal Mortality	
1946	5,714	21.9	19.1	24.2	27.2	12.8	11.5	32.0	42.9		44.3
1947	5,856	20.7	20.5	16.1	24.1	12.3	12.0	24.5	41.4		40.3
1948	5,817	21.8	17.9	23.0	23.2	11.7	10.8	15.7	33.9		38.5
1949	5,865	22.4	16.7	14.9	22.7	11.3	11.7	30.3	32.4		38.0
1950	6,048	18.0	15.8	18.0	22.7	11.9	11.6	45.9	29.6		37.7
1951	5,980	23.1	15.5	7.2	23.0	14.2	12.5	28.9	29.7		38.1
1952	5,952	21.2	15.3	15.6	22.7	10.9	11.3	31.7	27.6		37.5
1953	5,980	18.1	15.5	35.7	22.5	10.2	11.4	27.7	26.8	62.5	37.0
1954	6,010	15.2	15.2	20.6	23.5	11.3	11.3	21.0	25.5	31.0	38.1
1955	6,020	17.5	15.0	9.0	23.2	10.2	11.7	9.1	24.9	18.0	37.6

Average
for

1946-55	5,924	20.1	16.6	18.12	23.5	11.7	11.6	26.9	31.5		38.6
1957	6,070	15.0	16.1	59.4	22.5	10.6	11.5	42.1	23.1	99.0	36.2
1958	6,080	17.8	16.4	8.8	21.6	11.8	11.7	35.4	22.6	17.5	35.1
1959	6,100	15.9	16.5	28.8	20.7	13.11	11.6		22.0	29.0	34.0

Note.—The second set of figures refers to England and Wales.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—1959

1. WATER.

TOWN SUPPLY.

(a) Rainfall figures for the year:—

January	4.75	July	3.09
February	.23	August	.81
March	1.76	September	.19
April	3.41	October	3.67
May	1.60	November	3.81
June	2.77	December	5.69
Total for year 31.78 inches			

This compares with 40.05 inches in 1958 and 35.08 inches in 1957.

(b) Minimum supply to reservoirs was 37,756 gallons per day recorded on 7th September, 1959. Minimum waste line was 1,500 gallons per hour. Average consumption was 120,000 gallons per day.

(c) The connections to the town supply are as follows:

1442 houses, 2 small holdings, 195 other properties,
4 drinking troughs, 1 farm.

GUILDSFIELD AND GROES WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water from the Trinity Well Scheme and a supply is available from the Glyn Springs when an emergency arises.

TREWERN WATER SUPPLY.

This district is supplied with water from the Gelli Springs and continues to operate independently though the undertaking is connected to the Trinity Well supply for use during emergencies.

The total number of properties now supplied from this source is as follows:—

13 farms, 97 dwellings, 3 drinking troughs, 1 stand-pipe, 2 other properties.

A metered supply of water is being provided to Criggion Radio Station.

A bulk water supply is provided at Criggion for Forden R.D.C.

CASTLE CAEREINION WATER SUPPLY.

The total number of properties now supplied is as follows:

3 farms, 2 other properties, 2 small holdings, 22 dwellings.

TRINITY WELL WATER SUPPLY.

At the end of the year the following properties were receiving a supply of water from the Trinity Well source:—

316 houses, 1 hospital, 7 other properties, 40 farms, including farm houses, 67 drinking troughs (not metered), 13 standpipes, 2 schools.

The average daily consumption is 60,000 gallons.

A bulk water supply is provided at Pool Quay for Llanfyllin R.D.C.

LONG MOUNTAIN WATER SCHEME.

Work on this scheme is nearly completed. 3 miles of 3"

main has been laid, and the following connections have been made:—

7 farm buildings and houses, 18 drinking troughs.

A reservoir with a capacity of 10,000 gallons has been built, together with Pump House.

It is estimated that the average consumption next year will be 4,000 gallons per day and that all properties in this area requiring a supply of water will have been connected.

BELAN WATER SCHEME.

Work on the extension of the town's main from Oldford as far as Sarnybryncaled has been completed. A permanent supply of water will now be available for the Montgomeryshire Agricultural Show and for the Royal Welsh Show to be held next year.

It is eventually hoped to extend this main to the borough boundary at the Horseshoe Inn.

SAMPLES.

During the year 122 samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis, the results being:—

Town Supply	Trinity Well
21 Class 1	24 Class 1
1 Class 2	
2 Class 4	
Castle Caereinion	Gelli
19 Class 1	23 Class 1
1 Class 2	1 Class 4
Groes—Glyn	Private
19 Class 1	1 Class 1
3 Class 4	7 Class 4

2. FOOD.

167 Certificates in respect of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption were issued in 1959 as against 132 Certificates in 1958.

Summary of food condemned is as follows:—

301 tins food, 45 tins Milk, 6lb. Tongue, 19lb. 12oz. Pork, 123lb. Cooked Ham, 72lb. Corned Beef, 4 packets Cheese, 36 Pies.

ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district.

One application for registration of premises from retailer was granted, making a total of 30 in the Borough.

MILK ORDERS.

5 Dealers' Licences were issued authorising the use of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 3 Dealers licences authorising the use of Special designation "Pasteurised."

FOOD CLEANLINESS.

8 inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with the Council's byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are three registered slaughterhouses in the town, which are kept in fairly good condition.

It is proposed to erect a Municipal Slaughterhouse to cover the needs of the present slaughterers.

During the past twelve months the following carcasses were inspected:—

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
116	Nil	650	1645

Meat Condemned: 14 pigs heads, 12 beasts livers and 142lbs. Pork

The quality of stock slaughtered was extremely high.

3. SEWERAGE.

TOWN.

26 houses have been connected to the sewer during the year.

Discharge of sewerage is still into the River Severn.

A length of sewer has been laid at Severn Lane to a new private housing estate for five houses.

PROPOSED NEW SCHEME.

Little progress has been made with the Sewage Disposal Works Scheme.

GUILDSFIELD.

This village is sewered on the combined system to a disposal plant which is maintained in good order and gives little trouble.

TREWERN.

The Council's housing estate is sewered on the separate system, the sewage being treated at the sewage disposal plant, which is maintained in good order.

CASTLE CAERENION.

This village is sewered on the combined system to an unsatisfactory disposal plant. Efforts are still being made to negotiate a suitable site for the construction of a new plant.

POOL QUAY.

The disposal plant for this village is maintained in good order and gives no trouble.

4. DRAINAGE.

All drains laid, other than for Council houses, were tested by the department.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

8 informal notices were served during the year requiring repairs to roof, chimney and manhole covers.

122 blocked drains were dealt with without the serving of any notices.

6. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The total number of factories on the Register is 46. During the past year 12 inspections were made. There were no prosecutions.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

PART I OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on		Number of	
(1)	Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	36	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
Total	46	12	--	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found
 (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				cases in which
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		prosecutions were instituted (6)
			To. H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

Number of outworkers — Nil.

7. DISINFECTIONS.

Following outbreaks of infectious disease and filthy condition of premises two houses were disinfected.

8. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The arrangements for dealing with Rodent destruction were continued and the results were as follows:—

3 warehouses have been inspected, one of which was treated for mice. The town sewers were treated on two occasions, the first resulting in 14 poison 'takes' and 11 'takes' on the second. 3 school canteens have been inspected, 2 of which have been treated for mice, and one school for rats, with satisfactory results. The Smithfield was treated on 2 occasions. The Library was treated on 4 occasions for rats and mice. 10 farms have been treated with satisfactory results. 82 private houses in the Borough have received attention. 4 business premises have been treated. The Tip has been attended to on 3 occasions.

MATERIALS USED.

Sausage Rusk	Oat Meal	Poison
213lbs.	394lbs.	11bs. 10oz.

9. HOUSE REFUSE.

Weekly collections of refuse are made from all houses in the town. A modern and larger house refuse vehicle has been purchased and Guilsfield and Trewern areas are now collected weekly. Bi-weekly collections are made from other villages and houses en route.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on waste land conveniently situate half a mile from the town centre.

10. SHOPS & OFFICES.

The provision of the Shops Act were complied with and no Court action found necessary.

11. HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

By local authority	22
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By private enterprise	7
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HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT END OF YEAR.

By local authority	Nil
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By private enterprise	12
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Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of 1959 — 395.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Since we took over responsibility for housing improvement grants the following is the position:—

Total No. of Applications received	Total No. of Applications Granted	No. of Grants Paid to Dec. 1959	Total Amount of Grants to Dec. 1959	No. of Applications received in 1959	Total Amount paid in 1959
67	59	39	£9943	22	£3537

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority officers 16.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Number of houses which are in confirmed Clearance Orders and still occupied — 3.

SECTION 11. HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses condemned for human habitation as Individual Unfit Houses — 9.

Number of houses still occupied — 3.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

There were 53 notifications of Infectious Disease in 1959; approximately the same number as in the years 1957 and 1958.

They were distributed as follows:—

				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	20	27	47
Measles	...	...	...	1	1	2
Whooping Cough		...	...	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever		...	...	—	1	1
Totals				22	31	53

PNEUMONIA NOTIFICATIONS.

47 notifications of this disease were received in the first 2 quarters of the year, during an epidemic of influenza. 28 of the notifications related to Influenzal Pneumonia.

Adults were chiefly affected; 4 cases occurred amongst children.

There were 5 deaths (70—90 yrs. age group), but only one (Male 69 yrs.) was attributed directly to pneumonia. Of the remaining 4 cases, associated conditions were held to be the direct cause of death, and for this reason, they are not recorded as deaths from pneumonia in the table relating to "Causes of Death".

The following table gives an Analysis of the cases:—

PNEUMONIA NOTIFICATION.

Age Group	Totals		1st		2nd		3rd		4th	
	Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-10 years	...	3	1	3(2*)	1*	—	—	—	—	—
10-20 years	...	1	2	1	2(1*)	—	—	—	—	—
20-30 years	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
30-40 years	...	1	1	1*	1	—	—	—	—	—
40-50 years	...	1	2	1	2*	—	—	—	—	—
50-60 years	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
60-70 years	...	6	5	5(3*)	4(2*)	1*	1*	—	1	—
70-80 years	...	3	8	2*	4(1*)	1*	3*	—	—	—
80-90 years	...	3	8	3(1*)	5(3*)	—	3*	—	—	—
Totals	...	19	28	17	20	2	7	—	1	—

* Denotes Influenzal Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) **Pulmonary:** There was one case, a male, in the 30—40 years age group.

(b) **Non-Pulmonary:** There was one case, a female, in the 40—50 years age group.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis in Welshpool in 1959. 24 new cases were notified in the County of Montgomeryshire, being two less than in 1958.

There was a decrease in the notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis as compared with 1958.

There was a decline in the Death Rate of Tuberculosis, in the country as a whole, of 2 per 100,000 population for males and 1 per 100,000 for females.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit, based in Welshpool, continued its service in the North of the County during 1959. The results are appended below. The figures include, but do not relate specifically, to cases drawn from the Borough.

ANALYSIS SHOWING TYPE OF EXAMINEE.

Type of Examinee	Welshpool, and other Districts			
General population Volunteers	263	
General Practitioner Referrals	45	
Civil Servants and Local Government Offices			56	
School Children	18
School Staff	22
Students	1
Hospital Staff	7
TOTAL				410

Of the 410 cases examined 15 were found to have abnormalities and 10 of these were investigated further.

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES FOUND.

ABNORMALITY	Number of Cases			
Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis "New Cases"	2	
Healed Primary Tuberculosis	2	
Healed Post Primary Tuberculosis	2	
Bony Abnormalities	2	
Bacterial Virus and other Lung Infections	2	
Pleural Thickening or Calcification	1	
Abnormalities of Diaphragm	1	
TOTAL ABNORMAL	12	
Negative after Investigation at Clinic	3	

This is an important service. The exposure of unsuspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis ensures the institution of early treatment and prevents the spread of infection in the Community.

It is to be hoped that the service will be extended eventually to those outlying areas where travelling facilities are difficult.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

The Vaccination programme continues, 149 pupils at Welshpool High and Secondary Schools were tested; 117 were found to require Vaccination, and all but two accepted.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

Children over 6 months of age and young persons up to 26 years age were offered vaccination. In addition, third injections were offered. The response from young persons over 15 years of age, who were not attending school, was poor.

